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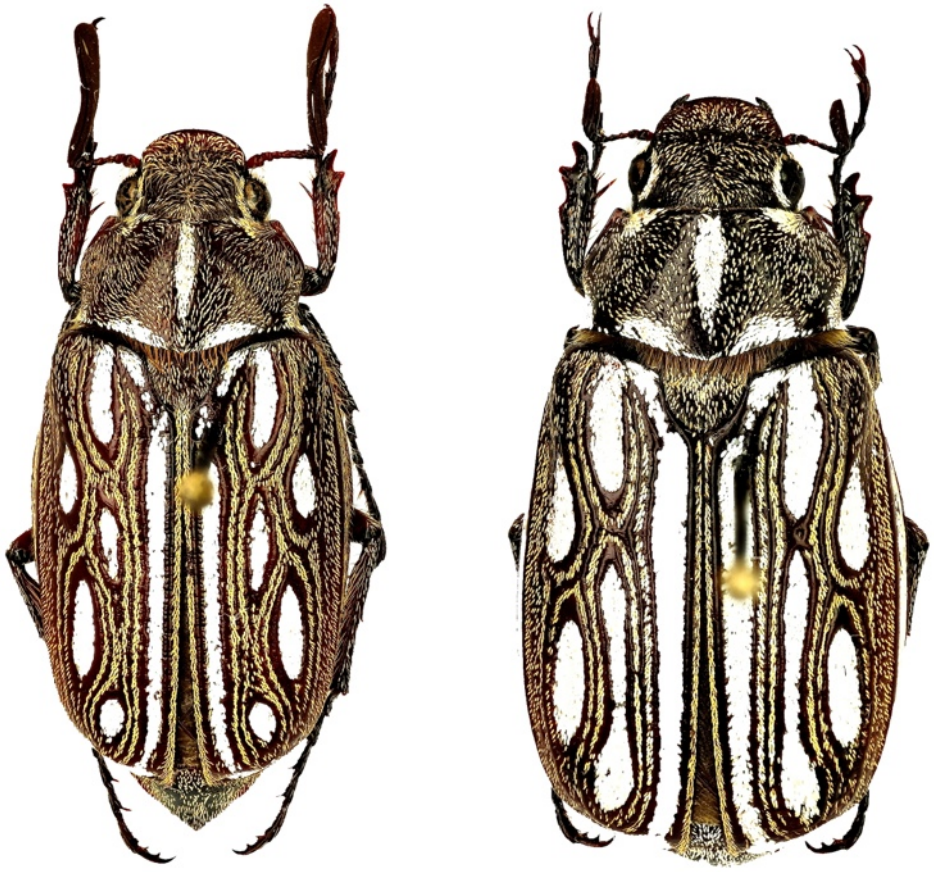

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Dedalopterus huongae new species from northern Vietnam (Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Leucopholini)

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Abstract. – *Dedalopterus huongae*, a new species from northern Vietnam, is described and compared with its congeners. The species is fully illustrated and can be easily distinguished from other members of the genus by its unique elytral ornamentation, which features distinct, white, rounded maculae replacing the longitudinal vittae present in congeneric species. Additional diagnostic characters are provided and illustrated, including the structure of the apical maxillary palpomere, and the configuration of the male genitalia. Due to the distinctive elytral pattern of this new taxon, the generic diagnosis of *Dedalopterus* Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998 is revised herein.

Sabatinelli G., Pham P.V., Đang V. N. & Ahrens D., 2025. – *Dedalopterus huongae* new species from northern Vietnam (Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Leucopholini). *Faunitaxys*, 13(43) : 1 – 4.

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Introduction

The scarab genus *Dedalopterus* Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998 was established to accommodate some species formerly assigned to the genera *Cyphochilus* Waterhouse, 1867 and *Malaisius* Arrow, 1941. All three genera belong to the tribe Leucopholini Burmeister, 1855 (Bezděk, 2016). In some earlier works, these taxa have been treated as part of the subtribe Leucopholina within the tribe Melolonthini (Smith, 2006). A first molecular phylogenetic study based on two mitochondrial and one ribosomal marker revealed that Leucopholini (i.e., Leucopholina) is polyphyletic (Eberle et al., 2019).

The genus *Dedalopterus* currently comprises eleven recognized species distributed across central and southern China, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam (Zídek & Krajčik, 2007; Bezděk, 2016; Pham et al., 2024; Wang, 2024). A recent revision of *Dedalopterus* from Laos and Vietnam (Pham et al., 2024) documented the presence of three species in this area: *D. lexuanhuei* Pham et al., 2024 from central Vietnam (Ngoc Linh Mountains, Annamite Range), *D. malyszi* Bunalski, 2001 from northern Vietnam (Lao Cai, Hoang Lien Son Range), and *D. pulchellus* Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998 (syn. *D. bezdekorum* Zídek & Krajčík, 2007) from northeastern Laos (Mount Xiangkhouang and Mount Phou Pan).

Although significant progress has been made in the taxonomy of several chafer groups in continental Southeast Asia, largely based on material preserved in scientific collections, the species composition and distribution of *Dedalopterus* remain scarce and fragmentary. Most species are known from only a few localities, underlining the need for more intensive field surveys (Pham et al., 2025). Such efforts are essential for advancing our understanding of the distribution and diversity of large, herbivorous scarabs and for distinguishing between actual distribution gaps and gaps in current knowledge. In this context, intensive research conducted by Vietnamese entomologists—at times in collaboration with European institutions, such as the Museum A.Koenig (LIB Bonn, Germany)—has led to the discovery of a new *Dedalopterus* species in northern Vietnam. This species possesses distinctive morphological features that clearly set it apart from all known congeners. It is described here, together with a revised diagnosis of the genus.

Material and methods

A Leica DFC425 camera in conjunction with a Leica M205- C stereo microscope was used to produce source images, which were subsequently stacked using the software Zerene Stacker, and adjusted and grouped in plates using Adobe Photoshop CS6.

Reviewers :

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The abbreviations of the examined specimen repositories refer to the following institutions:

IBHV – Institute of Biology, Hanoi, Vietnam

MHNG – Muséum d'histoire naturelle, de Genève, Switzerland (ex coll. G. Sabatinelli).

Collection data are provided verbatim using the following symbols: // = different labels; / = different lines.

Taxonomy

Family **Scarabaeidae** Latreille, 1802

Tribe **Leucopholini** Burmeister, 1855

Genus ***Dedalopterus*** Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998

Revised diagnosis of the genus *Dedalopterus*. – Elytra with four elevated costae in addition to sutural one, usually bearing white scales grouped in vittae or in rounded maculae; eyes large but not very prominent; labrum symmetric, crescent-shaped and either of even thickness or mesally constricted; canthus narrow, black, variably covered by tan setae, and extends about one-third of eye length; frontoclypeal suture complete, slightly concave-forward; apical palpomeres oval or pointed, usually with dorsal callus; midline of pronotum broadly depressed and forms a longitudinal groove filled with round, imbricating white scales; apex of pygidium rounded or pointed, angular or in pointed apophysis in males and broadly rounded in females. Distal parts of parameres curve to right, and right paramere usually shorter, thinner, with apex dorsal-ventrally less expanded; ventral surface with short hairs.

Dedalopterus huongae Sabatinelli, Pham & Ahrens **n**. **sp**.

(Fig. 1-10)

ZooBank : https://zoobank.org/3EF159CE-A060-4310-9CC6-36061208F702

Holotype, ♂, (MHNG): // VIETNAM, Lào Cai Province / Mù Cang Chải, Nậm Có / 21°51'58.9"N 104°18'44.5"E, 1700 m / 18-25.VI.2025 Văn Ngoc Đặng leg. // HOLOTYPE / *Dedalopterus huongae* n. sp. / G.Sabatinelli, P. Pham, V.N. Đặng & D.Ahrens //

Paratypes

- same data as the holotype, with the mention "PARATYPE", 1 ♀ (MHNG), 1 ♀ (IBHV).

Description of the holotype (Fig. 1, 3-4, 6-9)

General morphology and coloration (Fig. 1). – Body length 17 mm (measured from clypeus to apex of elytra); body width 8.4 mm, with the maximum width located at the midpoint of the elytra. Body elongate-ovoid and moderately convex. Integument light brown to chestnut; the head, antennae, posterior margin of the pronotum, scutellum, sutural costa, apices of the tibiae, leg joints, and claws darker. Body surface covered with narrow yellow scales and patches of white, oval, imbricate scales—three on the pronotum and six on each elytron (Figs. 1, 3, 4). Greyish, soft, adpressed setae present on the dorsal surface of the head and the anterior half of the pronotum.

Head. – Clypeus broad and semicircular, 2.9× as wide as long; anterior margin reflexed. Surface with large, contiguous punctures, bearing dense narrow yellow scales. Frontoclypeal suture complete and straight. Frons broad at the base, without any depression; surface strongly punctate. Vertex flat, not carinate. Compound eyes large but not strongly prominent; interocular distance approximately 0.6× the maximum transverse width of the head. Labrum glabrous, except for a few long setae along its anterior margin. Antennae with rugose antennal club (length 4.2 mm), approximately 2× the length of the scape (1.9 mm); scape shiny, longer than wide, distally bulbous. Pedicel and antennomeres 3–5 beadlike and subequal in size; antennomeres 6-7 wider than long, with anterior margins produced into a sharp angle; antennomere 7 broader than 6.

Pronotum. – Broadly trapezoidal, with only the lateral sides marginate. Anterior half of the lateral margins straight and slightly flattened near the anterior angles, which are distinct but blunt. Posterior half of the lateral margins strongly curved inward. Anterior margin slightly depressed near the anterior angles. Surface sparsely and shallowly puncture. Vestiture consists of scattered, narrow yellow scales and imbricate oval white scales that form distinct white spots. Dense white scales form a sagittal vitta along the longitudinal depression and extend horizontally along the posterior margin, between the scutellum and the posterior angles. Additional white scales present in the depressed area of the anterior margin near the anterior angles. Anterior region and lateral sides bearing long, greyish setae.

Scutellum. – Apex rounded; surface bearing several narrow yellow scales.

Elytra (Fig. 3-4). – Vestiture tessellate, composed of imbricate oval white scales and narrow yellow scales arranged in a reticulate, interlocking pattern. This arrangement creates patches of white scales bordered by yellow scales. Within this pattern, two prominent mesial costae and three less distinct external costae can be discerned, defined by linear alignments of yellow narrow scales. Each elytron presents a well-defined longitudinal subsutural vitta of white scales, three white spots located on intervals II-III, and two additional white spots on intervals IV-V.

Abdomen. – Ventrites 1-5 covered with sparse, small yellow scales.

Pygidium (Fig. 4). – Length 3.6 mm; basal width 4.9 mm, weakly convex in lateral profile; surface bearing sparse yellow setae, similar to those on the ventrites. Apex forming a slender and sharply angled tip.

Legs. – Protibia tridentate, with the basal tooth reduced and positioned farther from the two distal teeth. Basal protarsomere longer than protarsomere II; basal mesotarsomere and metatarsomere equal in length to their respective second tarsomeres. Ventral tooth of all tarsal claws located approximately at the midpoint of the claw.

Aedeagus (Fig. 6-8). – Parameres asymmetric, elongate (length 10 mm), and slender, with maximum width at the base of 3 mm. The right paramere (Fig. 8) is shorter and narrower than the left (Fig. 6). In lateral view, the apex of the left paramere ventrally projected into an acute angle, whereas the right paramere gradually tapers to a blunt dorsal point. Ventral setation short and sparsely distributed confined to the distal half of the ventral surface.

Female paratypes. – Habitus in Fig 2. Body larger than in males (length 17-18 mm, maximum width 8.8–9.0 mm). Antennal club subequal in length (1.5 mm) to the funicle. Apical maxillary palpomere narrow (width: 0.3 mm), distinctly longer (0.8 mm) than the penultimate segment (0.4 mm); both lateral margins evenly inflated, with the apex moderately pointed; dorsal callus very small (Fig. 10). Pygidium slightly convex, with a regularly curved distal margin (Fig. 5). Elytral vestiture similar to that of the holotype; in one specimen, the white spots on interstria II are fused into a single longitudinal macula. Protibia broad and distinctly tridentate. Females can be easily distinguished from males by the shorter antennal club, narrower apical maxillary palpomere, and the regularly curved distal margin of the pygidium.

Differential diagnosis. – The new species of *Dedalopterus* can be readily distinguished from all known congeners by its unique elytral ornamentation, which consists of a single, continuous subsutural vitta and five to six elliptical patches of white scales, each bordered by double rows of smaller yellow scales; apex of left paramere ventrally projected into an acute angle.

Etymology. – This species is likely the most beautiful within the genus *Dedalopterus*, and the author D.N.V. wishes to name it in honor of his wife, Mrs Dang Thi Huong, in recognition of her patience and unwavering support for his research.

Distribution. – The new species is currently known only from Nậm Có, a commune located in Mù Cang Chải District, Láo Cai Province, northern Vietnam. This district lies at the base of the Hoàng Liên Sơn mountain range, at an elevation of approximately 1,000 meters above sea level. Mù Cang Chải is renowned for its extensive terraced rice fields and ethnocultural diversity, with the H'mông ethnic group

Fig. **1-10**. ***Dedalopterus huongae*** **n**. **sp**. (Scale bar = 1.0 mm).

1. Holotype ♂, habitus, dorsal view, length 17 mm (from clypeus to apex of elytra). **2**. Paratype ♀, habitus, dorsal view length 18 mm. **3**. Holotype ♂, lateral view of elytra central part. **4**. Holotype ♂, apical part of body, dorsal view. **5**.Paratype ♀ apical part of body, dorsal view. **6**. Parameres, left lateral view. **7**. Parameres, dorsal view. **8**. Parameres, right lateral view. **9**. Holotype ♂, apical palpomere. **10**. Paratype ♀, apical palpomere.

Updated identification key to the male of *Dedalopterus* from Pham et al. (2024).

A. Elytra with longitudinal vittae of white and yellow scales and elliptical patches of white scales . . . . . ***D. huongae* n. sp.**

B. Elytra only with longitudinal vittae of white and yellow scales . . . . . all other ***Dedalopterus*** species

comprising approximately 95% of the local population, alongside minority communities such as the Dao and Thai. In the vicinity of Nậm Có Commune, the described specimens were collected from a natural conservation area spanning approximately 18,000 hectares, which is distinguished by the presence of ancient *Fokienia hodginsii* (Po Mu) and *Tsuga* spp. trees.

Acknowledgements

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Description. – GSA, PVP & DAH
Bibliographic research. – GSA
Fieldwork. – VND
Material study. – GSA
Authors of the figures. – GSA

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Résumé

Sabatinelli G., Pham P.V., Đang V.N. & Ahrens D., 2025. – *Dedalopterus huongae* nouvelle espèce du Nord Vietnam (Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Leucopholini). *Faunitaxys*, 13(43) : 1 – 4.

Dedalopterus huongae, une nouvelle espèce du nord du Vietnam, est décrite et comparée avec ses congénères. L'espèce est entièrement illustrée et peut être facilement distinguée des autres membres du genre par l'ornementation unique de ses élytres, qui présente des macules rondes et blanches distinctes à la place des bandes longitudinales caractéristiques des espèces apparentées. Des caractères diagnostiques supplémentaires sont décrits et illustrés, incluant la morphologie et la sculpture de la surface du pronotum, la structure du dernier segment du palpe maxillaire, et la configuration des organes génitaux mâles. En raison de l'ornementation distinctive des élytres de ce nouveau taxon, le diagnostic générique de *Dedalopterus* Sabatinelli & Pontuale, 1998 est ici révisé.

Mots-clés. – Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Melolonthinae, Leucopholini, *Dedalopterus*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, Vietnam.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Dedalopterus huongae **n**. **sp**., holotype ♂ (gauche), paratype ♀ (droite).

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